

Message Text

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UNCLAS TANANARIVE 2084

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SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY COMOROS MINISTER TOILIBOU

REF: TANANARIVE 2061

1. MOHAMED TOILIBOU, COMOROS MINISTER OF ECONOMY, FINANCE AND PLANNING, DEPARTED TANANARIVE DEC, 18H. HE GAVE AIRPORT INTERVIEW TO MADAGASCAR MATIN WHICH WE REPRODUCE HERE SINCE IT MIGHT NOT OTHERWISE BE REPORTED:

A. "IN THE COMOROS WE PROCLAIMED OUR INDEPENDENCE JULY 6TH UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES THAT YOU KNOW. THIS PROCLAMATION OF INDEPENDENCE HAS BEEN CEMENTED BY THE RECOGNITION OF OUR STATE BY THE OAU AND UN. THE COMOROS WERE ADMITTED TO THE UN NOV. 12TH. DURING THE COURSE OF OUR ADMISSION IT WAS SPECIFIED THAT THE NATION OF THE COMOROS IS COMPOSED OF A GROUP OF FOUR ISLANDS: ANJOUAN, MOHELI, GRANDE COMORE, AND MAYOTTE.

B. "SINCE THEN A CONFLICT HAS ARISEN IN WHICH FRANCE OPPOSES US CONCERNING THE STATUS OF MAYOTTE.

C. "THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE COMOROS IS THE RESULT OF AN ALL-INCLUSIVE REFERENDUM ORGANIZED IN THE COMOROS DEC. 22, 1974. NINETY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE POPULATION OF THE COMOROS PROCLAIMED THEMSELVES

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IN FAVOR OF INDEPENENCE. FIVE PERCENT WERE

OPPOSED INCLUDING THE MAHORAIS (OF MAYOTTE).

D. "AS A RESULT OF THIS POLITICAL REFENDUM IT SEEMS THAT FRANCE DESIRED TO BENEFIT FROM THE NEGATIVE RESULT RECORDED BY A VERY SMALL FRACTION OF THE POPULATION OF MAYOTTE WHICH SOUGHT TO ARRANGE A NEW, SHAM REFERENDUM. WE REFUSED CATEGORICALLY TO ORGANIZE SUCH A POPULAR REFERENDUM WHICH SUGGESTED A THREAT TO THE INTEGRITY OF OUR COUNTRY WHILE AT THE SAME TIME CONSTITUTING AN ILLEGAL INTERFERENCE BY FRANCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE COMOROS.

E. "FOUR DAYS AGO OLIVIER STIRN, FRANCE MINISTER OF TOM-DOM, DECLARED THAT "THE UN DOES NOT DETERMINE FRANCE POLICY." FRANCE HOWEVER ADHERES WITHOUT RESERVATIONS TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UN CHARTER. THIS ILL WILL WAS MANIFESTED BY FRANCE DURING THE COURSE OF THE ADMISSION OF THE COMOROS TO THE UN. THE FRANCE AMBASSADOR AT THE TIME OF THE PROCEEDINGS, DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE VOTE OF ADMISSION, CONSIDERING THAT BY SO DOING THE ADMISSION OF THE NEW STATE WOULD BE RECOGNIZED AS LEGAL AND WELL-ESTABLISHED. IF FRANCE HAD A CONFLICTING POSITION, SHE HAD ONLY TO SUBMIT IT BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTION WHICH IS THE UN."

2. THE NEWSPAPER NOTES THAT TOILIBOU WAS BORN IN 1950 AND STUDIED AT BOTH THE UNIVERSITY OF MADAGASCAR AND THEN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS FROM WHICH HE HAS A DEGREE IN ECONOMICS. SHEINBAUM

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